

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

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Education

1. In Klaipeda, the Lithuanian gymnasium and the training college for teachers are on Simano Dacho Street, in the former gymnasium of Vytautas the Great. The Russian gymnasium and training college for teachers is opposite the railroad station in the building formerly used as a training college for teachers of the Klaipeda area.¹ The Lithuanian primary school and seminary are in a house which was built before the war and which is located on Park Street near Aleksandro Street. There are primary schools in the former Luiseu gymnasium on Toepfer Street and in Smelte, Melnrage, and Giruliai. The kolkhozy have schools and kindergartens, but they are as much as 18 kilometers apart and, as a result, sometimes only a few children attend them. Since most of the people are poor, children have to look after the cattle and help support their parents.
2. Primary schools are not obligatory, but anyone is allowed to attend school. Children enter school at the age of seven, spend four years in primary school and eight years in the gymnasium. Instruction is according to norms, and a certain program has to be completed each year. No consideration is given to a child's inability to follow such lessons. In the first year, everything is taught in Lithuanian; later, everything is taught in Russian. Lithuanian is then used only in Lithuanian language courses, which are like any other foreign language courses except that they are given more frequently. Other languages taught at school are English, French, and German. Teachers are Lithuanians and Russians and earn 300 to 600 rubles per month.
3. Political education is essential. Parties are held in the schools only to commemorate political events. Teachers must be Party members and, being activists,

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they must make propaganda for the Komsomols and Pioneers. They are often accused of being enemies and not knowing how to attract children in the Communist Youth ranks. Without exception, the many Russian and Jewish school children are Communist Youth members. According to source, they are forced to join because their parents are officials and activists and are interested in maintaining the existing regime. Lithuanian parents prohibit their children from joining the Pioneers and the Komsomol, and thus there are only a few Lithuanians among them. Often the children like to join the Pioneers, because then the door is open for interesting military training. For example, in Giruliai, Pioneer camps are set up under the leadership of Russian officers and the children receive military training, even learning how to throw wooden hand grenades.

4. Sixty-five rubles per month are charged for each child in kindergarten. The children receive very good food in the kindergarten, and source believes the purpose of this is to cause them to lose interest in their parents. For breakfast they receive two rolls with butter. Every day for lunch they receive milk, soup, and meat. In the afternoon they have two pieces of white bread with butter, sausage or cheese, and cocoa or milk. For supper they receive four pieces of white bread with much butter and cheese or sausage. That the children are educated in a Communist spirit can be seen by their play, during political education lessons, and on Soviet holidays when they have to carry pictures of Stalin and other Soviet officials. They are taught from their fourth year that Stalin is living in their hearts. They are allowed to celebrate only Christmas and New Year's. In the kindergartens, children are questioned about their parents by the supervisor. Pupils must tell teachers where their parents work, what they do at home, to whom they speak, and who visits them.

Religion

5. Divine services are held in Klaipeda for persons of all faiths. A Russian church is now located in the new prewar cemetery chapel on the left side of the Klaipeda cemetery. Services for Catholics and Lutherans are held on Palangos Street near Puodzin Street, in the former Baptist chapel. Services are conducted in Lithuanian and the church is always overcrowded. Most of the people who attend are young gymnasium pupils. A priest named Baltrimas (fnu) and a preacher (name not given) conduct services in private homes for the Memellaenders. The Russians dislike this because they suspect that political meetings are held. Baltrimas is from Kretinga and was officially appointed by the government to his position in Klaipeda. Most of the Klaipeda churches were destroyed during the war, including the Johannes church, the Catholic church on Puodzin Street, and the Reformed church. The former so-called English church on Malku Street is now a store. A restaurant is located in the rooms on the left side of the former church and a steam bath in the rooms on the right. The priest seminary is closed.
6. People are not officially prohibited from going to church and no special permission is required. However, there are always militiamen and MVD agents in plain clothes who follow people going to church and who draw appropriate conclusions. Officials who are seen in church are immediately discharged. Also, when the half-yearly lists of deportees are made up, people who go to church are taken into consideration. There are no religious lessons in the schools.
7. The churches are supported by voluntary contributions. They have no farms nor any other property. As far as source knows, the churches pay no taxes.³ However, the priests are looked upon as blackmarketeers and therefore have to pay more for everything. For example, a priest has to pay twice as much as others for living quarters. Priests are not prohibited from visiting the dying but must do so by their own means.

Health

8. There are Lithuanian and Russian doctors. There are enough doctors but, because their salaries are comparatively small, they treat patients carelessly.² It is dangerous for them to treat persons privately and to take money for it.² There

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is no charge for treatment, but people have to pay for medicines. Medicines are delivered from Russia and the people say that they are good but very expensive. Medicine can be bought only with a prescription. There are still the same hospitals as before [the war], including the Red Cross hospital. When a person is very ill he is transferred to a hospital, but many sufferers of chronic diseases are visited at home by doctors or have to go to the hospital for [out-patient] treatment. Dental treatment is free. Metal is used for prosthesis work but, by paying 200 rubles, a person can obtain better dentures.

Social Welfare

9. There is no social insurance, and [old age] pensions are not paid. However, pensions are paid to medal holders and wounded veterans. For example, holders of the Order of the Red Banner receive 50 rubles per month and disabled veterans receive 120 to 150 rubles per month. Because they cannot live on these amounts, many invalids beg on the city streets and display their wounds.

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[REDACTED] Comments:

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1. [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED], doctors may treat patients privately and, although they may charge no fee, are permitted to accept whatever the patient offers.

3. [REDACTED]

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